



CITY OF ROCKFORD

Steve J. Jazwiec, Mayor
Michael F. Young, City Manager

PO Box 561 Rockford, Michigan 49341-0561 T 616-866-1537 F 616-866-6406 www.rockford.mi.us

April 19, 2012

Tom Williams, Associate Regional Counsel
United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago IL 60604-3507

Dear Mr. Williams:

I understand that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) have been working on a preliminary assessment (PA) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) for the former Wolverine World Wide (WWW) tannery property in Rockford, Michigan. I have discussed this matter with WWW, EPA and MDEQ officials. I am aware that Wolverine has completed the demolition and restoration of the site, the removal of all debris, the removal of wastes at two (2) locations on the site, and an extensive environmental investigation of the soils, groundwater and surface water at and near the property. I also understand that there are no conditions at the property that present a health threat to the public.

WWW indicated that it has been working with the MDEQ to close out the environmental matters at the site under Michigan's environmental laws and that WWW will continue to do so.

This property will play an important role in the future development and enhancement of downtown Rockford. The continuation of U.S. EPA and CERCLA involvement, particularly any efforts toward placing the property on the CERCLA National Priorities List, will have a significant negative effect on that future development and use of the property. There is no reason for those CERCLA efforts to continue. WWW has advised me that the remaining environmental issues at the property will be properly addressed by Wolverine with the DEQ. In fact, one of the members of the Concerned Citizens for a Responsible Redevelopment (CCRR) group that requested the preparation of the PA was quoted in the local newspaper as saying that the CCRR group does not want the CERCLA listing to occur.

I request that the U.S. EPA and DEQ terminate their CERCLA-related activities so that this property can be managed under the Michigan Part 201 Program.

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The Rockford City Council and the vast majority of citizens and businesses in Rockford share my views on this. There is sufficient data and other information to strongly support the termination of CERCLA involvement.

Thank you for your consideration and as always, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ROCKFORD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Young", with a large checkmark at the end.

Michael F. Young
City Manager